

February 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, CIA Honor Awards Board

SUBJECT : Authority for Awarding Medal of Freedom

1. As indicated to you orally, the Department of Justice has again called inquiring whether we wished to proceed further on a proposed Executive Order to authorize the DCI to award the Medal of Freedom. I have advised Justice that we are presently reconsidering the matter and will be in touch with them very soon.

2. For your information, subsequent to receipt of your 16 May 1955 memorandum, we queried the Director's Office as to whether this matter should be pressed further. It is our understanding that the Director wished no action taken at the time. Therefore, it would seem appropriate that the Honor Awards Board, if it deems it desirable, raise the issue again for final decision.

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Deputy General Counsel

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